

Message Text

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53

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 L-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EA-06 FRB-01 INR-07 NEA-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

ARA-06 /080 W

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P R 141559Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4540

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USUN NEW YORK 2899

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 0269

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, AU

SUBJ: UN CENTER ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS

REF : STATE 6805

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL THIS MORNING WITH AMBASSADOR WALTHER BACKES, CHIEF OF FOREIGN OFFICE ECONOMIC SECTION DEALING WITH UN AND OECD MATTERS. WE STRESSED THAT OUR OBJECTION TO CHILEAN CANDIDATE SOMAVIA BASED WHOLLY ON HIS DEMONSTRATED LACK OF OBJECTIVITY ON MNCS, RATHER THAN ANY PAST CONNECTIONS WITH FORMER CHILEAN REGIME. E ALSO EMPHASIZED USG BELIEF THAT THERE SHOULD BE ADDITIONAL CANDIDATES FOR SUBJECT JOB AND LEFT WITH BACKES NAMES MENTIONED PARA 3 REFTEL.

2. BACKES, WHO IS NEW IN HIS PRESENT POSITION, WAS UNINFORMED ON MATTER. HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PROMPTLY GET IN TOUCH WITH AUSTRIAN UN MISSION IN NEW YORK. HE BELIEVED SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM WOULD INSIST ON MORE THAN ONE CANDIDATE FOR ANY SUCH POSITION. HE HAD NO COMMENT ON
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NAMES CITED PARA 3 AND DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER OR NOT AUSTRIA

WOULD HAVE ANYONE IN MIND FOR THE POSITION.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS POSSIBLE CANDIDATED IN MIND: WOLFGANG SCHMITZ, A FORMER AUSTRIAN FINACE MINISTER AND PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK (ANB) UNTIL TWO YEARS AGO. SCHMITZ IS WELL KNOWN IN INTERNATIONAL MONETARY CIRCLES, HAS MANY FRIENDS IN THE U.S., STUDIED IN THE U.S., AND HAS EXCELLENT COMMAND OF ENGLISH. HE IS THOROUGHLY WESTERN IN HIS ORIENTATION AND DECIDEDLY PRO-AMERICAN. SINCE HIS TERM AS PRESIDENT OF THE ANB EXPIRED, SCHMITZ HAS SERVED AS ADVISOR TO AUSTRIAN CHANBER OF COMMERCE FOR INTERNATIONAL MONETARY AFFAIRS. HE HAS BEEN MUCH IN DEMAND TO CHAIR OR APPEAR AT HIGH-POWERED INSTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC GATHERINGS BOTH IN EUROPE AND THE U.S. SUCHAS THE ALPBACH FORUM. SCHMITZ IS WELL KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY. HE IS 52 AND STRIKES US AS A SERIOUS, HARD WORKING PROFESSIONAL. IF DEPARTMENT DESIRES, EMBASSY WOULD BE HAPPY TO BROACH MATTER WITH GOA AND SCHMITZ HIMSELF. HUMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENNA00269
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750014-0158
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750152/aaaabtlz.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 6805
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <02 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN CENTER ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS
TAGS: BEXP, AU, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006